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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,740	12/05/2001	Alexander MacGregor	23936-176	2553

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EXAMINER

FUBARA, BLESSING M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/006,740

Applicant(s)

MACGREGOR, ALEXANDER

Examiner

Blessing M. Fubara

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18-21, 24, 26-29, 31 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 22, 23, 25 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 & 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges receipt of declaration and amendment A filed 04/02/03, IDS and supplementary IDS filed 10/1/02 and 12/16/02 respectfully, and response to election requirement filed 04/21/03.

Election Requirement

The election required in paper number 7 is withdrawn because applicant has successfully persuaded the examiner to drop the election requirement.

Priority

Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) as follows:

The provisional application upon which priority is claimed was filed greater than 1 year before the filing of the non-provisional application. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 14-16 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 contains the trademark/trade name CARBOPOL.RTM. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A

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trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe acrylic acid polymer and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

Claim 18 contains the trademark/trade name POLYPLASDONE.RTM. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe vinylpyrrolidone cross-linked homopolymers and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 13 and 24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fritsch et al. (US 5,213,794).

Fritsch discloses a tablet formulation that comprises polyacrylic acid/methacrylate copolymer, polyvinylpyrrolidone, propylene glycol, calcium polycarbophil, crospovidone, silica,

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saccharin sodium, banana flavoring and calcium stearate (example 1 and column 6, lines 34-53).

The combination of polyvinylpyrrolidone and the acrylate polymer is equivalent to the hydrostatic couple of the instant claims. The active ingredient in Fritsch is antacid (abstract and examples 1 and 2). The swelling capacity recited in claim 3 is a property of the polymer and since the property of a compound or formulation cannot be separated from the compound or formulation, the formulation of Fritsch would inherently have the properties recited in claim 3. The teachings of Fritsch meet the limitation of the claims.

5. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 11-15, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26-29, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rork et al. (US 5,582,838).

Rork discloses a tablet formulation (column 7, lines 21-42) comprising pharmaceutically active ingredients such as antimicrobials, local anesthetic, analgesics and anti-inflammatory agents (column 6, lines 18, 20, 24 and 18), excipients such as lactose, magnesium stearate, polyvinylpyrrolidone and dyes (column 8, lines 13-25), CARBOPOL polymer (column 8, lines 45-65) and carbonate (claims 10). See also column 13, line 20 to column 14, line 9). The combination of the CARBOPOL and the polyvinylpyrrolidone constitutes the hydrostatic couple of the instant application. The carbonate is the carbon dioxide precursor of the instant application. Rork teaches particulate formulation (column 8, lines 21-25) and the pharmaceutically active agents are present in amounts of from about 0.01% to about 75% of the core weight (column 8, lines 26-32). Regarding claims 3 and 5, the formulation of Rork would inherently have the recited property. Regarding claim 15, which depends back to claim 2, it is noted that there is no specific amount of the acrylic polymer recited in claim 2, and thus, the acrylic polymer of the prior art would inherently have the same viscosity if the viscosity

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measurement is conducted on a 0.5% of the polymer of the prior art. The teachings of Rork meet the limitations of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 16 and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rork et al. (US 5,582,838).

Rork teaches the tablet formulation of the invention except that Rork fails to teach the amounts of the polymers. However, since the hydrostatic couple may determine the swelling capability of the polymer (see column 1, lines 22-32 of Rork), one having ordinary skill in the art would adjust the amounts the polymer to achieve the desired swelling for the desired drug delivery. Regarding claim 10, one of ordinary skill in the art has the ability to determine how much carbonate would be required for expansion of the dosage form for the release of actives. Applicant has no comparable example to demonstrate that the particle size recited in claims 19 and 16 provides unusual results. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare a tablet formulation that comprises nifedipine and the hydrostatic couple of polyvinylpyrrolidone and CARBOPOL according to the teachings of Rork. One having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use appropriate amount of the CARBOPOL with the expectation of achieving the desired delivery.


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8. Claims 17, 22, 23, 25 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art does not teach the polyglycan recited in claim 17 and the composition of the prior art does not contain oxygen and chlorine dioxide precursor.
9. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blessing M. Fubara whose telephone number is 703-308-8374. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on 703-308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3592 for regular communications and 703-305-3592 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1234.

Blessing Fubara 
Patent Examiner
Tech. Center 1600
July 14, 2003